

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace the listing of claims as pending in the present application (according to the amendments made under Article 19):

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original - Article 19): A nickel-tantalum alloy sputtering target for gate electrode material containing 0.5 to 10at% of tantalum and residual nickel.

Claim 2 (original - Article 19): A nickel-tantalum alloy sputtering target for gate electrode material containing 1 to 5at% of tantalum and residual nickel.

Claims 3-10 (canceled).